



# 2020 Assigned Interim Study Items

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee | June 2020

The Legislative Management Committee assigned the following items to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee to study during the 2020 legislative interim. The information under the “description” column is provided in consultation with the person or persons submitting the item and does not represent direction from the Legislative Management Committee. Items are listed in order of priority; additionally, the 2020 PUET Interim Committee has 15 statutorily required reports.

Direct relationship to pandemic or pandemic recovery	Name	Description	Requestor(s)	Related Documents/Notes
Yes	Support for Maintaining Strong Infrastructure and Virtual Networks throughout the Pandemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status update on sewer lines and septic systems impacts</li><li>• “Essential workers” designation for public utilities employees and internet service providers (ISPs)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Nexus with Utah’s Energy Emergency Plan and Energy Emergency Powers of the Governor Act, and other parts of the Emergency Management Act</li></ul></li></ul>	PUET Chairs, Stakeholders	Title 53, Chapter 2a
Yes	Utah’s Energy Industry and COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow up with investor-owned utilities, municipal utilities, and cooperatives on status of waivers of customer service suspension and termination.</li><li>• Follow-up on evaluating utilities’ load impacts due to forbearance, teleworking, and</li></ul>	PUET Chairs, Stakeholders, Regulators	Utah Code Sections 53-2a-902 and 53-2a-1001

		<p>any considerations for future rate-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive status updates from stakeholders and regulators on impacts to demand, supply, and labor concerning weakening markets</li> <li>• Discuss potential solutions, including reducing regulations on oil, gas, and mining, and analysis related to Utah's Energy Emergency Plan and Energy Emergency Powers of the Governor Act</li> </ul>		
Yes	Utah's Telecommunications Industry and COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive a status update from ISPs that operate in Utah and Utah's regulated public utilities telecommunications providers that have signed the Federal Communications Commission's "Keep Americans Connected" pledge (waivers of customer service suspension and termination, etc.)</li> </ul>	PUET Chairs	<a href="#">FCC's Keep Americans Connected Initiative</a>
Yes	Public Utilities Consumers & COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive a status update on Utah's public utilities small commercial and residential consumers: low-income and vulnerable populations, consumer complaints, pandemic scams</li> </ul>	PUET Chairs	N/A

		<a href="https://www.fcc.gov/covid-scams">https://www.fcc.gov/covid-scams</a> ), etc.		
No	Earthquake Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study best practices for earthquake preparation for Utah's utilities and virtual network infrastructures</li> </ul>	Chair Albrecht	N/A
No	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A Performance Audit of the Utah Communications Authority and Statewide 911 Operations (LAG)</li> <li>2) 2019 Matrix Consulting Audit on SLC 911</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) For each recommendation to the Legislature, the Legislative Audit Subcommittee asks that the PUET Interim committee, in collaboration with other assigned committees, reach one of the following conclusions, or some combination of the three, by a motion and a vote:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft legislation for the next legislative general session, if applicable;</li> <li>Conclude that the issues are significant but that more time is needed to develop solutions and consensus; or</li> <li>Conclude that there is insufficient committee support to study the issues further.</li> </ul> </li> <li>In addition, for other (non-legislative) recommendations, we ask that as part of your oversight role you determine whether appropriate action is</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Legislative Audit Subcommittee</li> <li>2) George Chapman (requested during HPUET's hearing of LAG Audit Report 2019-15 during 2020 GS)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) LAG Audit Report #2019-15; 2020 SB 130</li> <li>2) <a href="#">SLC 911 Audit</a></li> </ol>

		<p>being taken to address the audit findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We ask that you report back to the Legislative Audit Subcommittee the conclusion(s) reached by your committee with a summary of the reasons for reaching this (these) conclusion(s).</li> </ul> <p>2) Receive update on tangentially-related item concerning 2019 SLC 911 audit findings</p>		
Undetermined	Digital Opportunity Access Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene stakeholders to examine how to best break down barriers and disparities to comprehensive and robust access to the internet in order to mitigate issues that contribute to intergenerational poverty.</li> </ul>	Rep. Dailey-Provost	2020 HB 385
No	Status of public utilities' data sharing practices with their customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study including efforts toward digital integration of customers' utility data, engaging all electric and natural gas utility sectors in Utah (municipal utilities, cooperative utilities, and investor-owned utilities) and their differing classes of customers (residential, small commercial, industrial, and state government)</li> </ul>	Rep. Handy	2020 HB 320

<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>Data Privacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study and strengthen Utah's current data privacy laws</li> </ul>	Rep. Spendlove	N/A
No	<b>Stray Current and Voltage Impacts to Livestock Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By November 2020 and in three year intervals thereafter, the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee shall review industry standards and peer reviewed research regarding levels of stray current and voltage and impacts to livestock.</li> </ul>	Enacted by 2018 HB 318 (Rep. Handy, Sen. Weiler)	Utah Code Section 54-22-204
No	<b>Limiting local control over imposing natural gas bans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study Arizona legislation, signed into law February 21, 2020, that prohibits local governments from adopting measures that would ban natural gas hook-ups in new buildings</li> </ul>	Rep. Handy	<a href="#">2020 AZ-HB 2686</a>
No	<b>Utah's energy portfolio policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study Utah's current energy portfolio policies for interlocal utilities (municipal utilities), electric cooperatives, and investor-owned utilities (large-scale electric utilities); potential to explore the range of energy portfolio policy options, from those that target emissions-reduction to renewable portfolio standards</li> </ul>	Rep. Ward	2020 HB 194